



**KING COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

4:00-5:30 PM

Conference Room 6B, Exchange Building
821 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Attending:

Bob Seidensticker (KCASAAB)
Eleanor Owen (Co-Chair/KCMHAB)
Howard Miller (KCMHAB)
Linda Brown (KCASAAB)
Roger Goodman (Co-Chair/KCASAAB)
Ron Sterling (KCMHAB)

Absent:

Alice Howell (KCMHCAB)	Clifford Thruston (KCMHAB)
Mindy Meyring (KCMHAB)	Jim Harbaugh (KCASAAB)
Pam Dietrick (KCASAAB)	

Visitors:

Staff:

Amnon Shoenfeld	Sherry Hamilton
Geoff Miller	

I. Introductions/Announcements

Introductions and announcements were made

Available in alternate formats upon request.

(206) 205-1324 or (206) 205-1136

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II. Budget – Report and updated

Amnon and Marty Lindley discussed the mental health with Jan Beyer taking a positive approach. Karl Brimmer, Director of the Mental Health Division plans for the state hospitals may include additional cuts, and the budget picture may be worse next biennium. MHD noted that the L & I costs may create a budget hole which could mean a reduction of five wards next year. Information on the MHD budget and rationale for the budget differs between the MHD and Governor's Office.

- No changes in the impact of funding decreases for Chemical Dependency. Reductions do not appear to be as severe as for Mental Health. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding is targeted for reduction and this may impact the staff at the KCAC or services such as out-stationing liaison services to the central services offices. In addition, it is unknown if the TANF funding used to match Title XIX Medicaid will continue. The loss of this funding could result in a \$1,000,000 loss in treatment funding.

III. 2002 Action Plan – Legislative Advocacy and Outreach

- Updates: Outreach to legislators, community partners, stakeholders

Several members noted speaking to legislators with varying success. All were encouraged to continue to develop relationships with their legislators.

Roger noted that the King County BAR Association statement in support of the alcohol tax and provide a handout.

- Assignments/Next Steps – outreach and engagement

It was again recommended that each committee member continue to make contacts with legislators.

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IV. Legislative Information

- Age of consent bills died
- Advance Directives Bill is in the House after being passed by the Senate.
- OMBUDS Consolidation Bill died
- Beer Tax is dead for now but may be resurrected as part of the budget
- Prescription Drug Reform passed the house, but may have issues in the Senate.
- 2014 (?) Prevents denial of an claim based on injury related to alcohol or drugs passed the House but died in the Senate.

V. Public Affairs Plan

- Jim Vollendroff is working on National Alcohol Screening Day. Preliminary work is being done in preparation for September.
 - It was recommended that letters to the editor or op-ed work be done ahead of time for September.
 - It was suggested that a proclamation by Ron Sims could assist with positive publicity.
- May is “Mental Health Month”. Sherry discussed the activities that have been happening to support public relations activities, noting specifically a potential role for the youth from the Families In Common program.

VI. Drug Court Study

- The Drug Court Study that received local press was discussed. It was noted that Mary Taylor did an excellent job of defending and describing the complexity of analysis that was not completed in the State’s evaluation drug courts.

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VII. Legislative Forum

- Amnon noted that Mike Rynas has located a site for the 2003 Legislative Forum. The Kirkland Performance Center has a capacity of 400 and can be rented for \$650. The Committee agreed that this would be an excellent location.

VIII. Set Agenda for April 23, 2003 meeting, which will be held as follows:

April 23, 2003
4 PM to 5:30 PM
Conference Room 6B, Exchange Building
821 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

For information call Geoff Miller, King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (206) 205-1136.

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